

Message Text

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SUBJECT: GOVERNMENT STAFFING AND OFFICE SPACE FOR THE INDOCHINESE
REFUGEE PROGRAM IN THAILAND

REF: BANGKOK 8078

1. THIS MESSAGE DEALS PRINCIPALLY WITH THE US
GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES OF THE REFUGEE SECTION UNDER TWO
OPTIONS. THE FIRST IS DESIGNED TO ACCOMMODATE SPORADIC
PAROLE PROGRAMS FOR BOAT REFUGEES AND A MODEST FOLLOWUP
TO ALREADY APPROVED INLAND CAMP REFUGEES UNDER IPP-77.
THE SECOND PRESUMES A LONG RANGE, APPROXIMATELY THREE
YEAR, INDOCHINESE REFUGEE PROGRAM THAT WOULD ACCOMMODATE
SUBSTANTIAL NUMBERS OF BOTH BOAT AND LAND REFUGEES.

2. THE FIRST OPTION WOULD INCLUDE TWO AMERICAN LANGUAGE-
QUALIFIED REFUGEE OFFICERS, WITH VIETNAMESE AND LAO
FLUENCY RESPECTIVELY, AS PART OF A PROGRAM-FUNDED
STAFFING PATTERN; TWO AMERICAN PIT POSITIONS, ONE
SECRETARIAL AND THE OTHER CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL;
AND THE THREE LOCAL POSITIONS CURRENTLY IN THE
PROGRAM.

3. THE SECOND OPTION WOULD PROVIDE FOR A PERMANENT
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AMERICAN STAFF ESTABLISHED UNDER PROGRAM FUNDS
CONSISTING OF SIX AMERICANS: COORDINATOR, A DEPUTY,
AN EXPERIENCED FOREIGN SERVICE SECRETARY, AND LANGUAGE-
QUALIFIED ETHNIC AFFAIRS OFFICERS FOR EACH OF THE
FOLLOWING THREE GROUPS: HMONG, LAO, AND VIETNAMESE.
THE TWO AMERICAN PIT POSITIONS WOULD CONTINUE TO BE
CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL OFFICER AND CLEAR-TYPIST. THE

THREE LOCAL POSITIONS WOULD CONTINUE TO BE SECRETARIAL AND CLERICAL. WE WOULD ENVISION THE OCCASIONAL REQUIREMENT FOR A LAO SPEAKING TDY OFFICER TO SUPPLEMENT THE HMONG AND THE LAO ETHNIC AFFAIRS OFFICERS DURING PEAK ACTIVITY. THE VIETNAMESE ETHNIC AFFAIRS OFFICER WOULD ALSO COVER KHMER CAMPS.

4. WE BELIEVE AN EXPERIENCED FOREIGN SERVICE SECRETARY IS JUSTIFIED FOR A LONG RANGE PROGRAM BECAUSE OF THE INTENSITY OF THE CLASSIFIED WORKLOAD. DURING THE LAST TWO MONTHS, FOR EXAMPLE, THE REFUGEE SECTION HAS SENT OUT AN AVERAGE OF 45 CLASSIFIED TELEGRAMS PER MONTH.

5. AS AN EXAMPLE OF THE WORKLOAD FOR ETHNIC AFFAIRS OFFICERS DURING THE INDOCHINESE PAROLE PROGRAM - 1977, THE HMONG EAO REVIEWED CASE FILES ON 17,356 REFUGEES; THE LAO EAO 10,811. WHILE THE CASE LOAD FOR THE VIETNAMESE EAO WAS CONSIDERABLY LIGHTER, HE KEPT EXTREMELY BUSY ALTERNATING BETWEEN THE TWO BOAT CASE CAMPS, BECAUSE OF THE CONSTANTLY SHIFTING POPULATIONS IN BOTH OF THEM, AND THE THREATS OF EXPULSION OF REFUGEES IN ONE.

6. PENDING A DECISION ON A LONG RANGE PROGRAM, WE WOULD RECOMMEND THAT THE REFUGEE SECTION REMAIN IN THE CONFIDENTIAL

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HOKCHAI BUILDING. THE CURRENT LEASE CAN BE EXTENDED MONTHLY THROUGH JULY 16, 1978, AFTER WHICH IT CAN READILY BE RENEWED.

7. A DETAILED JUSTIFICATION FOR EACH POSITION IN A LONG RANGE PROGRAM FOLLOWS IN SEPTTEL.
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